

# Los Angeles County Faith Based Child Care Providers Network News

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2004



## Universal Preschool Comes to Los Angeles

### Contents

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| LA Universal Preschool | 1 |
| Upcoming clusters      | 1 |
| Center Spotlight       | 2 |
| Road to Accreditation  | 3 |
| Funding Opportunity    | 3 |
| Playground Renovations | 4 |
| UPK briefings          | 4 |

### Upcoming Cluster meetings

◆ October 14<sup>th</sup>  
1 pm Eastern San  
Gabriel Valley --  
St. Stephen's  
Preschool Academy,  
La Puente

◆ October 26<sup>th</sup>  
1pm Pasadena area  
Jackie Robinson  
Center, Pasadena

[kathy@calchurches.org](mailto:kathy@calchurches.org)  
for more info

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) is a non-profit organization, with initial funding from First 5 LA, dedicated to a single overarching goal: to provide access to a quality preschool program to every four-year old child in Los Angeles County whose parents choose to participate. By offering services in public schools, child care centers and family child care homes; by creating new preschool capacity in high-need areas; and by helping to develop a highly trained and well-educated workforce; LAUP will help prepare the children of Los Angeles County for success in school and in life.

To participate in the LAUP Early Launch lottery for center-based programs, providers must meet the minimum quality requirements for LAUP. The program must **currently** meet criteria in the following areas:

- Compliance with state licensing and employment laws  
Demonstrated financial responsibility
- Adequate insurance coverage
- Ability to accommodate children with special needs
- Qualified program or site director
- Curriculum
- Prepared by March to meet LAUP quality requirements

Early Launch applications from Center-Based Providers are due November 10, 2004. Qualified Sites will be selected by lottery on December 15, 2004, with a site visit to follow. Contracts will begin in March 2005.

Agencies interested in creating *new* capacity in underserved communities (the "Facilities Hot Zones") may apply starting on October 28, 2004. Check the website [www.laup.net](http://www.laup.net) to download an application at that time.

Orientation sessions on LAUP and the Early Launch Lottery are being held throughout Los Angeles County from October 14-30. To find a location near you, or to access additional information about Los Angeles Universal Preschool, including application forms, go to [www.LAUP.net](http://www.LAUP.net). Or you can receive additional information by calling toll-free (866) 581-LAUP.

**Note: The November 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> Network briefings on Universal Preschool are not application orientations. These briefings will provide an opportunity to discuss issues specific to faith based centers. Be thinking of your concerns and questions!**

Funded through a grant from First 5 LA



## Quick Facts

- Established 1999
- Ages Served: 6 weeks to K
- Licensed capacity: 93 preschool / 24 infant-toddler
- Open year round 6:30am to 6:30pm
- Target Area: La Puente & West Covina
- Curriculum: *Abeka* Christian-based program
- Funding: Fee for service & Cal Works subsidies
- Nutrition: California Department of Education funded

## Center Spotlight: St. Stephen's Preschool Academy

**St. Stephen Preschool Academy at St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church**  
 1718 Walnut Avenue, La Puente CA 91744  
 Pastor E.W. McCall  
 Academy Director: **Peggye Hernandez**

Nestled among a working family neighborhood of La Puente, you will find St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church. Its modern façade is at once blended into the landscape of this residential street and distinctive as a faith center. Upon closer look at the Church grounds, congregants are making their way to Wednesday night bible study, as the St. Stephen Preschool Academy thrives with activity. Children hop gleefully in an inflated bouncer while toddlers motor around a makeshift bumper-car course. A nice buffet of homemade sandwiches, snacks and fruit punch await visitors. It is Open House night for the Preschool Academy as it gears up for new enrollment. More notably, it is also a commemoration of the Academy's fifth anniversary – a significant milestone considering that the program began with only three children.

Most folks visiting this summer evening seem to feel right at home. Families, both old and new are warmly greeted in each classroom by attentive staff ready to answer any questions. When posed the question "what do you enjoy most about your work here?" one staff member replies, "it's fun being in a job where play is the work of the day... it's also a challenging but very rewarding job." St. Stephen Preschool Academy is a thriving center providing care to infants through kinder-age children, framed within a faith-based setting and enhanced by a faith-based curriculum. The *Abeka* Christian curriculum emphasizes basic math, writing skills, science and biblical principles. The philosophy of the Academy is to provide a safe secure environment that fosters academic and

spiritual growth of early learners in a community atmosphere.

Even on a busy night such as this, Peggye Hernandez, the founding director, is personally interviewing potential new families, offering them a cheery welcome to her center. Peggye Hernandez is a thirty-year veteran of early childhood education, with a degree in child development and a wealth of practical experience. She spent nearly fifteen years with the Los Angeles Unified School District's child development program as a substitute preschool teacher. She is also an entrepreneur who operated a licensed family child care home at her residence for four years. Her current role as child care director for St. Stephen's resulted from Peggye's search to devote more time to her family while remaining close to home. This is her community. She is a remarkably personable woman, who seems to effortlessly manage the exhaustive operations of a large child care center. That same spirit abounds among her staff.

The California Council of Churches applauds Peggye Hernandez and her team for their commitment to children and families. For more information on the St. Stephen Preschool Academy, contact Peggye Hernandez at (626) 918-0796.

--Pat Navarette-Davids



## The Road to Accreditation

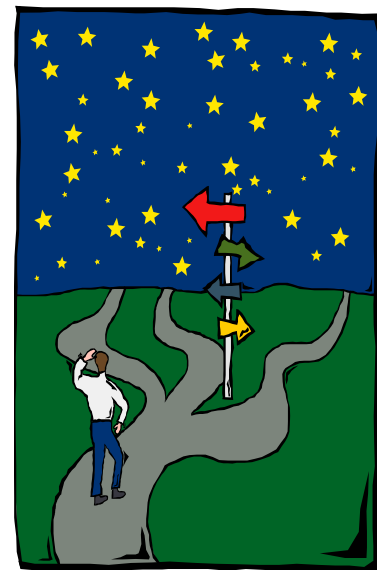
- ➔ Are you interested in learning about accreditation for your faith child care center?
  - ➔ What does it take to begin the process?
    - ➔ How much does it cost?
      - ➔ What are the benefits of accreditation?
        - ➔ How long will it take to become accredited?

These questions and yours will be answered

in an informational forum with the

**Southern California Association**

**for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC)**



At this forum, the Network would also like to explore your interest in a collaborative proposal for funding accreditation among faith-based child care providers.

Join us on:

**Thursday, October 21, 2004, 1-3 pm**

**Nishi Hongwanji Child Development Center**

815 East First Street, Los Angeles 90012

Host: Susan Mukai, Child Care Director

**Please bring your brown bag.  
Some light refreshments will also be served.**

RSVP to Pat Davids (909) 559-5143 or MsTrishyD@yahoo.com

**Funding Opportunity:** The California Story Fund strives to strengthen California communities through story-based public humanities projects. Through grants of \$5,000, the fund supports public humanities programs that bring to light compelling stories from California's diverse communities. The fund is particularly interested in projects that use story to explore the lives of contemporary Californians and that focus on changing identities and communities in transformation. Deadline: Dec. 1, 2004.  
RFP link: <http://nfie.org/grants.htm>

Los Angeles County  
Faith Based Child Care  
Providers Network  
PO Box 412168  
Los Angeles, CA 90041

Phone and fax:  
(323) 256-3162

[www.calchurches.org](http://www.calchurches.org)

Rev. Kathy Cooper-  
Ledesma  
[kathy@calchurches.org](mailto:kathy@calchurches.org)

Pat Navarette-Davids  
[pndavids@earthlink.net](mailto:pndavids@earthlink.net)

Michelle Cassidy  
[michellecalchurches@earthlink.net](mailto:michellecalchurches@earthlink.net)

Save the Date!  
December 2, 2004  
Faith Based Child Care  
Symposium at USC  
Details to follow soon!

## Playground Renovation Project Update

The Network has identified sixteen faith-based centers throughout the County which have an interest in forming a Playground Renovation Collaborative. Working with LA Conservation Corps, this group will be meeting regularly as part of a process to renovate their playgrounds!

There is still room – if your center is

interested in joining this collaborative, email Michelle at [michellecalchurches@earthlink.net](mailto:michellecalchurches@earthlink.net) to RSVP for the October 28<sup>th</sup> planning meeting. On that date we will review the project process, its requirements and our expectations of participating centers.....which includes required attendance at planning meetings.

## UPK Briefings for the Faith Community

The Network is sponsoring two briefings on Universal Preschool for the faith community. These briefings are intended to raise awareness of issues and concerns particular to faith based centers. Plan to attend, ask questions, and network – faith based child care provides 25% of all childcare in LA!

### Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:30 pm

Burbank Temple Emanu El Preschool  
1302 N. Glenoaks Blvd.  
Burbank, CA 91504

### Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm

Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church  
14515 Blaine Avenue  
Bellflower, CA 90706

*rsup to [kathy@calchurches.org](mailto:kathy@calchurches.org)*

Los Angeles County Faith Based  
Child Care Providers Network  
California Council of Churches  
PO Box 412168  
Los Angeles, CA 90041



LABEL